ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT GROUP | December 2, 2024

Welcome!

Victoria-Saanich Citizens' Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation

VICTORIA SAANICH CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

victoriasaanich.ca

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Recap
Review of Assembly Session 2, 3 and 4
Review of Public Meetings & Public Submissions

2. Upcoming Activities & Programming
Interim Report
Technical Study Report (and February Public Meetings)
Programming for Assembly Sessions 5-8

3. Next Steps

Next Advisory Group meeting:
Monday, Feb 24, 2025, 6-7pm PT

Victoria-Saanich Citizens' Assembly

The Assembly is mandated by the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria to explore the costs, benefits and disadvantages of the amalgamation between the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria.

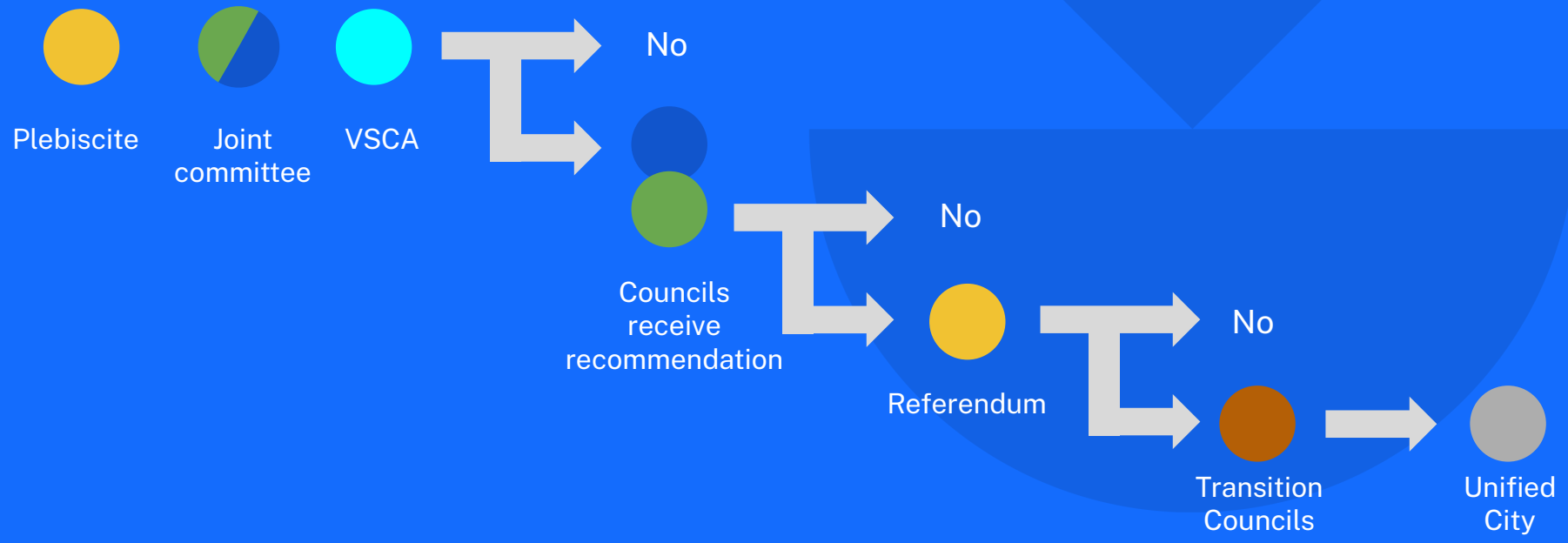
Specifically, the Assembly will:

a. Identify common aspirations for good local governance to provide a basis for evaluating costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation and status quo of the municipalities relative to their current independent status.

b. List the issues which the Assembly believes needs to be resolved for amalgamation to merit consideration, including issues related to the implementation and integration of the municipalities under amalgamation.

After weighing the evidence and considering what it believes are the best interests of both municipalities, the Assembly will strive to achieve a consensus recommendation on whether and under what conditions the municipalities should amalgamate. The recommendations could also include suggestions for service integration.

What happens if the assembly recommendations amalgamation?



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Key dates

Sept 21	Jan 11
Oct 19	Feb 8
Nov 2	Mar 8
Nov 21	Apr 5

Four public roundtable meetings will also be scheduled, where residents can meet and converse with members of the assembly.
November 20-21
February 25-27 (to be confirmed)

Dec 2024:	Interim Report
Jan 2025:	Technical Study Report
Feb 2025:	Next round of public meetings
Jun 2025:	Final Report delivered to Councils

Review of Session 2

Jocelyn Jenkyns, City Manager, City of Victoria
Brent Reems, CAO, District of Saanich
Ted Robbins, CAO, Capital Regional District

James Richardson & Bonnie Chan-Maier, MNP

Discussions: Issues; Expectations for the Technical Study

Review of Session 3

Lindsay Chase, Director of Planning, Dist. of Saanich
Andrea Hudson, Asst. Dir. of Planning, City of Victoria

Enid Slack, Exec. Dir., Institute for Municipal Finance & Governance, University of Toronto

Discussions: Values; “4 Best Reasons…”

Review of Session 4

Julian Daly, CEO, OurPlace Society

Clayton Pecknold, former Police Complaints Commissioner of BC

Discussions: Public Meetings & Submissions; "Assurances"

Review of Public Meetings

Nov 20 (online) and Nov 21 (Crystal Garden)

~50-70 guests + 20-25 assembly members

Overview of Assembly process & members

5 discussion questions for roundtables

Review of Public Submissions

19 submissions received as of Nov 28

Interim Report (Dec 2024)

Per the Terms of Reference, the Interim Report will outline the draft values and issues/questions that the Assembly believes deserve further study/consideration before the process concludes.

Further:

- Background information
- Program summaries
- Key public information
- Member profiles, speaker bios, resources, etc

Technical Study is underway

Following a competitive tender, MASS selected the firm MNP to conduct the technical study, as mandated by the project's terms of reference. MNP conducted an RFI with the municipalities and is currently preparing its initial analysis and table of contents to present to the Assembly in Session 2.

The role of the Technical Study is to:

- Define the current state and determine the costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation and provide opportunities for consideration.
- Provide a comprehensive, well-supported report of findings of the amalgamation study as well as engaging brief and long presentations for various audiences.
- Work with MASS LBP, the administrative officials of both communities, and the Citizens' Assembly to develop the scope and study elements for this work that will meet the expectations of officials and citizens.

MNP Technical Report Draft outline

Background and Purpose
Local Government in BC Overview
Goals/Aims & Documented Issues
Study Method and Report

Geography
Boundary Map
Population

Financial Overview
Property Taxation
Revenues and Expenditures
Capital Assets and Projects
Debts
Other Considerations (if present)

Municipal Administration and Services
General Government
Planning and Development Services
Protective and Emergency Services
Environmental Health
Parks and Recreation Services
Social Support Services
Other Considerations (if present)

Financial Impacts
Potential Annual Impacts to an Amalgamated Municipality
Potential One-Time Implementation Expenses
Overview of Adjusted General Municipal Tax Rates
Potential Property Tax Impacts on Representative Properties
Other Considerations (if present)

Regional District Impacts (CRD)
Representation
Services Differences (if any)
Other Considerations (if present)

Key considerations noted during study
Naming
Community
Governance
Transition Process
Community Vision, Planning, and Development
Social and Environmental Issues
Disadvantages and Advantages
Other Considerations (if present)

Preview of Session 5 (Jan 11)

- Presentation of the MNP Technical Study

- Stakeholder Perspectives
  - Amalgamation YES
  - Perspectives TBD on the other side

Preview of Sessions 6-8

Session 6 > Theme: Developing scenarios

- Panels/presentations
  - Civil Society Perspectives
  - Rural Saanich / ALR
  - Business / Economic Perspectives

Session 7 > Theme: Preparing to call the question

- Possibly one of the above panels here

Session 8 > Theme: The big finale

- Finishing and polishing the draft report
- Closing ceremony

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Thank you!

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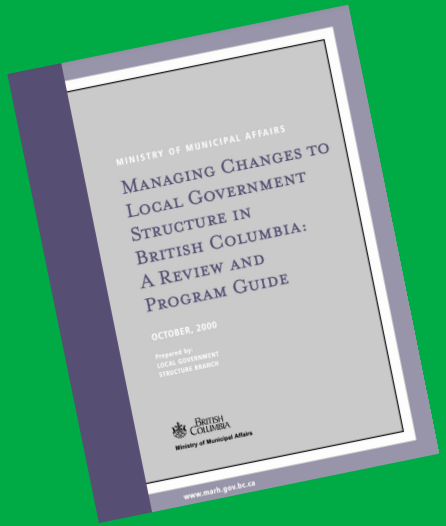
Background Binder

We will post these materials online
You can suggest other materials to add



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